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Abstract

*The Virtuousness of Passivity*

In works such as *Watchmen*, *City of God*, and *The Power and The Glory* characters approach dire situations with either an air of passivity or rebellion. This benefits characters like Rocket, from *City of God*, who neither fights for nor acts against the underworld crime that surrounds him. Other characters such as Rorschach, from *Watchmen*, suffer for refusing to be passive in the face of catastrophe.

I plan to explore the merits and morality of passivity versus activity in works such as *Watchmen*, *City of God*, and *The Power and The Glory*. In these works I will choose specific characters and situations in which the individual decides to act against a certain situation or stand idly by.

From *Watchmen* I will analyze the ending scene where Rorschach is killed for refusing to compromise while Nite Owl and the Silk Spectre accept the fate of New York City.

From *City of God* I will contrast Rocket, who does not seek revenge for his brother's murder (but rather aims to keep out of trouble while pursuing a career in photography), with Knockout Ned, who becomes consumed by his desire for revenge against Lil Ze for the rape of Ned's girlfriend and murder of his family members.

I will evaluate the whiskey priest from *The Power and The Glory* since he faces the conflict of whether or not to be passive in regards to his duty as a clergyman throughout the novel.

With each of these works I will evaluate whether or not the characters seem to be making virtuous decisions. I will also speculate as to what each character's primary motivation is for making their respective decisions.